



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

MEDIA ADVISORY

Virginia Department of Social Services Launches New Interactive Service *CommonHelp* Website Will Allow Citizens Self-Service Access to Public Assistance Benefits

- WHAT:** The public launch of [CommonHelp](#), an easy to use, secure, self-service delivery system that provides Virginians with the ability to screen, apply, check on the status of applications, update or renew their public assistance benefits online.
- WHO:** Dr. William A. Hazel, Jr., Virginia's Secretary of Health and Human Resources
Martin D. Brown, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services
Nannette Bowler, Director, Fairfax County Department of Family Services
Juani Diaz, Director, Self-Sufficiency Division, Fairfax County Dept. of Family Services
- WHY:** Technology is changing how state agencies do business. CommonHelp will improve the efficiency of Virginia's government by providing online flexibility and services citizens have come to expect from the private sector. CommonHelp provides online access from any computer via the Internet, allowing citizens to:
- Screen for Potential Eligibility for:
 - Child Care
 - Energy Assistance
 - Medical Assistance
 - SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
 - TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
 - Apply for Benefits
 - Check the Status of Applications
 - Report Changes
 - Complete Benefit Renewals
- WHEN:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012
Noon – 1:15 p.m.
- WHERE:** Fairfax County South County Center
8350 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22309
- CONTACT:** Melissa Perdue, Virginia Department of Social Services,
melissa.perdue@dss.virginia.gov or (804) 726-7111